

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 61  
By West

A RESOLUTION to name the Administration Building at the  
Tennessee School for the Blind "The Ralph A.  
Brewer Administration Building".

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of the General Assembly should pay  
tribute to those remarkable citizens who have dedicated their professional lives to furthering the  
growth and development of the children of this State, our most precious natural resource; and

WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer is one such exemplary citizen who during his thirty-nine  
years as an educator and administrator has demonstrated an unparalleled level of dedication,  
ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brewer is closing out the last year of his fourteen-year tenure as  
Superintendent of the Tennessee School for the Blind, having served in an exemplary fashion  
and having exerted a profound positive-influence upon the lives of many students at the school;  
and

WHEREAS, Ralph Brewer graduated from Tennessee School for the Blind in 1962,  
having won the 1962 State High School Wrestling Championship and received an athletic  
scholarship to Auburn University; and

HJR0061

00312956

WHEREAS, he returned to the Tennessee School for the Blind in 1964 as Wrestling Coach and teacher, serving admirably as Counselor from 1972-75, and Director of Student Living from 1975-80; and

WHEREAS, leaving his beloved alma mater, Mr. Brewer served with distinction as Principal of the West Virginia School for the Blind in Romney, West Virginia, from 1980-88; he then accepted the post of Superintendent of the Tennessee School for the Blind; and

WHEREAS, along the course of his career path, Ralph Brewer earned a Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master of Science in Special Education for the Blind and Visually Impaired from the George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in 1978; he earned an Administrative Endorsement from Frostburg State University in 1983 and additional postgraduate hours from Marshall University; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Brewer has been instrumental in procuring significant physical improvements, including the transition of campus housing from dormitories to an independent cottage/multi-handicapped setting, reproofing all existing buildings, updating and replacing of campus plumbing and installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems for the entire campus; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Brewer has established programs to help visually impaired students across the state, including Project PAVE, the Annual Unity Conference for vision and rehabilitation workers, relocation of the Resource Library for the Blind to the Tennessee School for the Blind campus where it is administered by the School, on-campus consultation services which provide various kinds of testing for students across the state and outreach services for teachers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brewer has led the Tennessee School for the Blind to a new era of technology, including the wiring of every classroom to the Internet through the School's own

high-speed server, allowing faculty and students to access the Internet using adaptive equipment; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Brewer has been active in numerous professional and civic organizations and sits on numerous boards of directors; his preeminence in his field and his undisputed role in having the Tennessee School for the Blind recognized as one of the top three such schools in the nation have won him nationwide acclaim and unparalleled respect among his peers; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that a career of such selfless dedication and accomplishment be suitably honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Administration Building at the Tennessee School for the Blind be named "The Ralph A. Brewer Administration Building" in honor of Mr. Brewer's outstanding contributions to the school and to visually impaired students in Tennessee as well as his career of accomplishment and purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we join with the members of the Alumni Association and the students of the Tennessee School for the Blind in thanking Ralph A. Brewer for his many selfless contributions to the School and its students, past and present, and offer to him our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.